FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes attacked two civilian targets in Iran on 4 March, according to IRNA reports. In the first attack two Iraqi planes fired six rockets destroying a gasoline station near the Ahvaz steel plant, causing "heavy casualties." Later, an Iraqi plane fired an Exocet missile at the incomplete Bushehr atomic plant, causing "some damage." In retaliation for these attacks, an Iranian Armed Forces communique broadcast by Tehran radio announced that Iranian forces will shell Basra at 1630 GMT on 5 March. In response, an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio warned that any attempt to shell Basra will be met with a "violent reply" deep inside Iran. Earlier, an Iraqi Armed Forces communique broadcast by the radio maintained that Iraqi Planes attacked a "Large maritime target" near Khark Island on 4 March "scoring accurate and effective hits." However, shipping sources in Bahrain cited by AFP noted that no distress radio calls were picked up.

Lebanon

In a statement broadcast by Beirut radio, Amal leader Nabih Birri urged the Lebanese authorities to participate in the struggle against the Israelis by reinforcing the Army and instructing it to "confront" the IDF. Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, called for a "defensive jihad" against the Israelis and appealed to Lebanese Christians to join the resistance, according to the radio.

Meanwhile, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Bikfayya on 5 March and began talks with President Amin al-Jumayyil, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. An anonymous caller told a Beirut news agency that the "Christian Action Organization" had shelled the airport earlier in the day to protest current security conditions there, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon disclosed.

Jordan-PLO

King Husayn received a PLO delegation led by Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf on 4 March in Amman, Amman television reported. Earlier, a PLO spokesman in Tunis announced that Jordan has agreed "in principle" to amend two points in the joint agreement concerning the composition of the negotiating team and the timing of Palestinian self-determination, AFP disclosed.

In a related development, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, in a speech broadcast by Cairo radio, called on the United States and all other concerned parties to give the Jordanian-PLO initiative the "encouragement it deserves" and enter into a "preliminary dialogue" with the Arabs to identify possible action. Mubarak went on to say that it is "illogical" to ask either side to make unilateral concessions before starting negotiations.

Syria

The National Command of the Ba'th Party condemned the PLO-Jordanian agreement and President Husni Mubarak's initiative in a statement broadcast by Damascus television, describing such moves as a "serious deviation" aimed at "liquidating" the Palestinian issue. Despite all these concessions, the United States and Israel "continue to insist on stripping off everything that protects the deviationist Palestinian rightists as well as the Jordanian and Egyptian regimes so that all will come to the negotiating table emptyhanded in a journey of treason, submission, and capitulation," the Syrian Ba'th Party statement contended.

Algeria

PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and Libya's Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud arrived in Algeria on 3 March to discuss the establishment of a pan-Arab command with Algerian leaders, Tripoli radio reported. This leadership would lay down a pan-Arab strategy aimed at "speeding up" unity between Libya, Syria, Algeria, and the PDRY, the radio noted.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and visiting Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu exchanged views on the international situation and noted the development of bilateral relations during talks on 4 March, according to Tripoli radio.

Sudan

President Ja'far Numayri, in a 3 March speech broadcast by Omdurman radio on the occasion of National Unity Day, announced an "integrated plan" to solve the national unity dispute which he said concerned a "very small minority." Numayri maintained that the dispute could only be solved through negotiation and dialogue and therefore repeated his offer of general amnesty and declared a cease-fire by the Armed Forces. Numayri noted that the Armed Forces in the future would fire only in self-defense or in defense of Sudan's interests.

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General Comments On State of Afghan Army

LD041443 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 28 Feb 85 p 6

[Serge Keyrac dispatch: "Kabul: The Balance of Forces Has Changed"]

[Excerpt] Kabul — The thing which struck me clearly in Afghanistan is that the balance of forces has now tipped in favor of the revolutionary government. This includes the balance of forces on the military level. Despite everything that is said and written in the West, the Afghan Army exists. General Shafi Azemi was obviously not going to contradict that!

"The situation is relatively calm throughout the country." He said this in his huge office in what was once the royal palace, while we drank the customary green or black tea and nibbled almonds and raisins. "We strike at gangs trying to cross the border day after day. This does not mean that we succeed in preventing all infiltration or that there are no clandestine groups inside the country. But we have dealt them such blows that their groups no longer number more than 30 or 40 people. They are not capable of carrying out large-scale actions, but they can launch attacks, lay ambushes, and carry out acts of terrorism. They hit at economic targets. They mainly attack schools, hospitals, and the teachers, doctors, and mullahs who support the revolution, not to mention members of the PDPA and the various youth organizations, and land and water reform officials...."

Blind attacks are the most dangerous — bombs in cinemas, mosques, and buses. On 21 February the Afghan BAKHTAR agency announced an explosion in a mosque in the Herat region in the west of the country: four people were killed and several wounded. An attack at Kabul airport killed several hundred people. In a country policed like France, it is impossible to prevent an explosion at Marks and Spencer. You can imagine what it is like in Kabul. And yet, 1 month after the airport massacre, those responsible were arrested, publicly tried, and sentenced. The counterrevolutionaries can still do damage, particularly hindering road transport (there are no railroads) and slowing down the country's economic development. They are unable to make it change course.

The Afghan Army is a decisive force, quantitatively and qualitatively. Quantitatively, it is big enough for military service to have been reduced from 4 and 3 years to 2 years. "Sometimes, when I read that the Afghan Army has 20,000 to 30,000 men, I cannot help smiling," Gen Azemi said. This is far fewer than the corps of officers and NCO's." The Army receives modern equipment from the Soviet Union and is mastering the technology increasingly well. The Afghan Air Force is particularly impressive in this connection.

For the young recruits the army is a melting pot. Learning to read and write, education, and civilian and political training go hand in hand with military training. I was able to see this at the 15th Division training center in Wandahar. For most of these young people from rural backgrounds, it is a passport to the modern world.

As for the Soviet contingent, Gen Azemi said that it devotes itself primarily to training and education. It escorts some highway convoys. The Soviet Army ensures the security of crucial targets: airports, factories, works of art. I was able to observe the great discretion of the Soviet forces, who are scarcely seen outside their quarters. The few Soviet patrols encountered in the capital were inspecting only their own soldiers. I more frequently met civilian advisers, teachers, engineers, or doctors in Kabul and elsewhere. In any case, according to Gen Azemi the Soviet contingent does not take part in operations: it is there in a support position. For how long? As long as this country is the target of attacks from other countries.

Cooperation Protocols With USSR Signed

LD041753 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] A protocol concerning the method of delivery tools, equipment, construction machinery and material for Afghan-Soviet economic and technical cooperation projects under favorable terms for the DRA, was signed yesterday between the DRA State Planning Committee and the Economic Consulate of the Soviet Union in the DRA. The protocol sets out that equipment and tools for the aforementioned projects will be insured and delivered to DRA ports.

A protocol on training cadres of the DRA planning organs in the Soviet Union for 1364-1368 [year beginning 21 March] was signed between the DRA State Planning Committee and the All-Union Committee of Prommosheksport of the USSR. Twenty-five Afghan planning staff will be sent to the USSR each year for 2 months training in raising their scientific level of planning and to exchange experiences.

Cultural Cooperation With France, FRG Ended

PM041608 Paris LE MONDE in French 2 Mar 85 p 6

[G.V. report: "Kabul Ends Cultural Cooperation With France and FRG"]

[Excerpt] The Afghan Government recently informed France and the FRG that it wished to end cultural and technical cooperation with those two countries, a reliable source revealed in Paris Thursday, 28 February. France and the FRG were the only two Western countries continuing such cooperation with Afghanistan.

BAKHTAR Emphasizes Formation of Peasant's Councils

LD051006 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Kabul, March 5 BAKHTAR — More than four hundred peasants councils have been formed in Afghanistan. Their creation is one of the main matters having immense importance for the peasants' movement with regard to the implementation of democratic land and water reforms and active participation of peasants in state affairs.

The democratic land and water reforms constitute the main theme of national democratic revolution in the DRA.

The future development of the revolution depends, primarily on how the party and state attract, immobilise and approach peasantry forming a great majority of population who defend revolutionary changes and are for the defence of the ideals of the revolution and construction of new society void of any oppression and exploitation. [sentence as received]

The village peasant council has been created as a basis for the participation of the peasants in the revolutionary changes and (?democratisation) of their life in the country.

Keeping in view this objective during the implementation the democratic land and water reforms and distribution of land to landless peasants and petty land holders much attention is being paid to the formation of peasants' councils.

The councils and committees of peasants, consisting of representatives of the landless peasants and petty landholders, under the control and direction of state and party authorities should be expanded. the major fundamental changes of the society take the [word indistinct] interest.

'Agricultural Mechanized Stations' Set Up

LD050958 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0521 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Kabul, March 4, BAKHTAR — The agricultural mechanized stations and their branches have been set up in nine provinces of Afghanistan.

The main aim of formation of these stations is to replace the old agricultural tools and methods to provide more facilities and to raise the living standards of peasants.

According to the contract signed with the Soviet Union, agricultural equipment and implements such as tractors, grain and cotton harvesting combines with all their accessories have been purchased from that country and distributed to the agricultural mechanized stations.

Keeping in view the interests of the peasants, the rate of implements is fixed much lower than the actual cost and the losses arising from the use of machines are subsidized from the state budget.

In provinces where agricultural mechanized stations are functioning, peasants and other institutions accomplish their agricultural activities by making use of the machines of the stations.

One of the objectives of the mechanization of agriculture in the DRA is to change the methods of medieval production with modern ones. Therefore, according to the plans the mechanized stations are gradually built in all provinces of the country and will be extended to districts and localities, which need such stations, and thus, the modern agricultural machinery will be put at the disposal of peasants remote areas.

The stations have rendered valuable services to the agriculture of the country. For instance, the area of activities of implements and equipment has been expanded from 9,275 hectares in 1980 to 47,500 hectares in [word indistinct]

Since the establishment of agricultural mechanized stations till now over 200 persons have been trained in the stations and have started their work as tractor operators, harvesters and mechanics.

Soviets Hit Qandahar After Mujahidin Attacks

LD041846 (Clandestine) Voice of Afghanistan in Pashto 1130 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] Qandahar — Reports from Qandahar city say that heroic mujahidin have increased their attacks against enemy forces in the city. The reports add that three aircraft were set on fire as a result of rocket attacks by mujahidin on Qandahar Airport. After this attack, Soviet helicopters heavily bombed villages near the airport.

Another report from Qandahar city says that a high-ranking official of the Soviet Communist Party, who recently arrived in Qandahar city, was killed in the city center during daylight hours by the courageous mujahidin. After this incident, Soviet soldiers opened fire on people in the city, martyring 45 innocent Muslims.

We are from God and to Him we return.

Ziaul Haq Announces Constitutional Amendments
BK041041 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1410 GMT 2 Mar 85

[President Ziaul Haq's 2 March address to nation —live]

[Excerpts] My dear countrymen, peace be upon you. I have the honor to address you for the second time in a span of merely 1 week. This is because of the domestic situation through which we have been passing rapidly in these days. I like to keep you informed of the situation at every stage of this period, so that we can march forward to our destination in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Today's speech is quite a lengthy one. But you have listened to even longer speeches, and I hope that you will give a calm and patient hearing to my thoughts. At the outset, I shall briefly discuss the recent elections and the new leadership, to be followed by the long-awaited announcement regarding constitutional amendments.

We are very much thankful to God that we have at last been successful in holding general elections in the country, elections that have been overwhelmingly commended both inside and outside the country. Both the supporters and critics of the government acknowledge that the national as well as the provincial elections were held in a very free, fair, and impartial manner. And both the times, I mean on 25 and 28 February, people enthusiastically participated in them. And the number of voters, that is the turnout of voters [last three words in English] has been so large that no one has any doubt at all of the usefulness and wide popularity of these elections. All recognize that a 50- to 60-percent turnout of voters is a testimony to the fact that all high-sounding claims of boycott have proven ineffective. The people overwhelmingly exercised their right to vote and expressed their views in a very peaceful and free atmosphere. This certainly reflects the victory and the mature political awareness of the people. I extend my hearty congratulations to those who succeeded in either provincial or national level elections, and welcome them as elected members of the assemblies. And I express my sympathies to those who failed to be elected, and I would like to advise them to forget the election bitterness, extend fullest cooperation to elected members, and maintain contact with the people and serve them. They will certainly, God willing, succeed next time.

You have also witnessed these elections and may have analyzed them as well. In my analysis of these elections, there are five very prominent factors. The first of them relates to the general atmosphere of campaigning, whose pattern, I think, was more or less the same as was defined during the referendum in December of last year, and that was their love for Islam. During the election campaign, the candidates contesting the elections were of varied temperaments, and they had different priorities. They came from different areas with different problems. But every candidate, no matter whether he came from a town or a village, definitely mentioned Islam. Each definitely adhered to Islam. Each definitely included Islam in his campaign. Islam was mentioned sometimes before and sometimes after other issues, but certainly it was mentioned everywhere. I understand that this was a part of the process initiated during the referendum. This fully reflects the fact that Islam, by the grace of God, has become an important and indispensable part of our life. Praise be to God.

The second point is that elections in the past were the cause of bloodshed. Of course, there have been some disturbances during campaigning or polling in some places, and some lives were also lost. But the overall situation remained peaceful. This shows that now the people, instead of making elections a question of life and death, favor mutual understanding. This is definitely an indication of political maturity.

The third factor is that these elections are the first in our history that were held on direct adult franchise and on a nonparty basis. The overwhelming participation of the people in the elections shows that our people have now become astute, and that they are so eager to cast their votes that they cannot tolerate the call to boycott the elections being held in the country. In this context, the political training that the people had during the two local elections and one referendum also can not be ignored.

The fourth factor is that the leadership that emerged as a result of these elections includes youths and aged persons, veteran politicians and some new faces, rich and poor, and urbanites and rural people. But by and large this leadership is young and energetic, and it can certainly be expected to play its full role in accelerating the process of Islamization, reconstruction, and development in the country.

The fifth and final factor of my analysis is that the recent elections have proven that the Pakistani nation is not extremist but moderate. Those elected are neither rightists nor leftists, but the followers of the path of moderation. I am personally very happy with this, because in my point of view, only the path of moderation is the path of Islam.

I have individually sent telegrams and letters of congratulations to the persons who have been elected as members of the assemblies through these elections. It is my good fortune that I already know most of these people and, God willing, I will meet a few others in the near future with whom I have not had the honor to meet individually. My overall impression of the new leadership is that it is very good, balanced and moderate and is imbued with a spirit of love for Islam and service to the country. They are desirous of solving problems of their areas and making the country stronger and more prosperous. I pray to Almighty God that the hopes, intentions and aspirations with which they have come are fulfilled effectively and that they may serve the country in the best possible manner.

After the elections, many observers have thrown light on the expectations of the people for the new leadership. One observer writes that it will not be inappropriate to expect from the new leadership that as members of the assemblies, even though they are elected on their individual capabilities outside any party discipline, they will think about the present and future of the country by rising above individual and party interests and lust for power for the sake of power and act accordingly. In other places, the new leadership has been advised that they should try by every means to make the dawn of this new era of democracy successful and should work for national interests and the country's solidarity by ignoring individual and regional interests.

Personally, instead of giving any type of advice to the elected members, I am myself waiting for their advice and only want to

assure them that they will receive my fullest cooperation in the realization of national objectives.

Today, when an atmosphere of happiness and optimism is prevailing on all sides, I do not want to mention anything gloomy, but I consider it necessary to point out that the two major political crises faced by us in the past were not created before or during the elections, but after the elections. I am pointing toward the 1971 and 1977 crises. On both occasions, peace and order prevailed during the election campaigns, elections were also held somehow or other and with relative peace, but later, when the time came to implement the election results, the hunger for power dominated all other things. Everywhere the voice of power, power was raised and nobody knew what would happen to the dear country amidst all this individual greed and lust for power. However, even now, I appeal to the elected members to understand the delicacy of the present situation against the background of this history, to act with patience and restraint, to control their ambitions, and to give priority to national interests above everything else.

You will be happy to hear that, God willing, a few days from today provincial assemblies will hold sessions on 12 March, while the National Assembly will meet on 20 March and the Senate will hold its session on 21 March, and as scheduled, the joint session of the national and provincial assemblies will be held on 23 March and, with this, the process of establishment of democratic institutions will be completed. After this, the federal and provincial governments will be constituted.

Dear ladies and gentlemen! Now the elections have been held, and democratic institutions are being established. This follows the phase for effecting constitutional amendments, which I mentioned in my 12 August 1983 broadcast. But before announcing these amendments, I want to repeat before you briefly the constitutional history of Pakistan, because the Constitution and its theme can be understood well only in light of the country's historical background. Our constitutional history begins in 1947, when an interim constitution was prepared and a constituent assembly was set up to frame a permanent constitution. This assembly approved an objective resolution in 1949, which acquired the status of guiding principles. The first prime minister of Pakistan, Mr Liaqat Ali Khan, who had the honor of being the right hand of the founder of Pakistan, Qaide Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, made an important and memorable address on 12 March 1949 while presenting this resolution to the constituent assembly.

Ladies and gentlemen, you should yourselves think about what the founders of Pakistan did and said about Pakistan's constitution. But, it is regrettable that even after 36 years, I feel the necessity to remind the people of the real objectives in establishing Pakistan. The reason for this is the regrettable fact that the primary document — the objective resolution — could not become the part of any constitution. Every constitution has included in its preamble the contents of the objective resolution — without naming it — but has not allowed the resolution to become a feasible part. Such is the case with the 1973 Constitution, which needs to be reformed. Here, I do not want to criticize the formulators of the past constitutions. But, I feel that Pakistan's political system should have been formulated in accordance with those principles that are based on our fundamental ideology — that is, the Islamic ideology — and which have been identified in the objective resolution. Some thinkers have also provided the blueprint of an Islamic system of government in light of those same Islamic principles. I have already discussed some of these points before and would like to present them to you again.

First, according to the Islamic point of view, sovereignty lies with Almighty God and the servants of God use it as a sacred trust. In Islam, popular support is essential for the exercise of sovereignty. But, to express this support, it is not necessary to bring only political parties into being. The people can also express their opinion directly. The third [as heard] point in Islam is the center of sovereignty or, in common parlance, the head of state is the symbol of unity in the country and is elected by the righteous and sensible people of the country. But after his election, all citizens of the country should be bound to support and obey him. In my opinion, in an Islamic system of government, the concept of ruling and opposition parties is not clear. Obeying a head of state is compulsory so long as he does not turn away from Islam. The most important point is that the Islamic system should be based on consultations, and as you have heard from me, we have already reached shooracracy [the Islamic system of government based on consultations].

An Islamic state is actually a welfare state. We have effected reforms in various walks of life — including the economic, financial, educational, social, and judicial fields — in accordance with the principles of Islam. But, I must admit that the one field in which we have not made any desired progress is the establishment of the Islamic system of government. But it is certain that we have definitely laid a foundation for this. Now, new architects have emerged, and now I have put it to the elected representatives of the people to see how to build an edifice on this foundation and how to progress toward the Islamic system of consultation.

In fact, after centuries of slavery, our minds are never drawn toward the Islamic system of government. Our thinking mostly moves around parliamentary or presidential systems. During the past 7-8 years, whenever a politician or intellectual has come to see me, his first question has been: Mr Ziaul Haq, will the future system in Pakistan will be parliamentary or presidential? No one has wished to ask me whether the country's future system will be Islamic or not, and if Islamic, what will be its framework and when will it be enforced. The point is that while embracing these alien systems, we neither understand them fully nor implement them. Since both of these systems have been mentioned here, I will briefly describe to you the basic difference between them.

The first difference between the presidential and parliamentary systems is that in the presidential system the president is the head of both state and government, but he has no power of legislation. For legislation there is separate legislature — congress or parliament — which has no executive power. The president is elected separately; the legislature is elected separately. This is the presidential system. All three wings of the state — legislative, executive and judiciary — work within their jurisdiction and monitor or balance each other, and the entire system functions according to checks and balances, and this balance is the reason for the success of this system.

In the parliamentary system, the situation is completely different. In this system, the president is considered the constitutional head of state and a symbol of the state's unity, and he is usually elected indirectly. His status is that of the father of the nation, and he usually does not interfere in executive affairs. The country is administered in his name, but in reality it is run by someone else. The prime minister discharges this duty. The prime minister is a member of parliament, and with the support of a majority of its members he runs the country's affairs. He selects a cabinet from the members of parliament to help him, while in the presidential system the president can include anyone in his cabinet.

The second difference between the presidential system and the parliamentary system is that, in the presidential system, the president is elected for a specified term and he usually finishes his term or tenure provided he is not impeached for a serious crime. This means that once the president has been elected, he leaves only after finishing his term. In contrast, the prime minister always depends on parliament's confidence to remain in office, meaning that once he loses parliament's confidence, he relinquishes his post. So, in the parliamentary system, there exists a perpetual tension between the prime minister and parliament which is described in English: They live under perpetual fear of one another [sentence in English]. The opposition is always trying to gain power by denying majority support to the prime minister, who himself is on the lookout for the support of a majority in parliament. If the house starts to get out of control, then the prime minister must look for a way to dissolve it with the help of the head of state so that new elections are held, which restarts the tug of war. This perpetual tension between the prime minister and parliament is a drawback to the parliamentary system, one that does not occur in the presidential system.

When this 1973 Constitution failed in 1977 and martial law was enforced for the third time in the country, we only kept it in abeyance — but partially — instead of abrogating it according to the convention. Despite martial law, we tried our best to ensure that even in extraordinary circumstances the country's administration should be run in accordance with this constitution as far as possible. For some time, the elected president of the previous parliament continued to perform his usual duties as the constitutional head of state, while the chief martial law administrator worked as head of the executive. When the president left, I had to shoulder this responsibility as well, because under the 1973 Constitution, there was no use keeping a person in the presidency as a figurehead.

Since most of today's amendments relate to the balance of powers between the president and the prime minister, it would not be uninteresting to glance over the constitutional provisions concerning the president. On the one hand, in Article 41 there is a sentence under the title: President, stating: Pakistan will have a president; he will be the head of state and will represent the union of the republic. On the other hand, Article 48, on the powers of a representative of the union of the republic and the head of state, says that the head of state will abide by the advice of the prime minister in the discharge of his duties and that every order of the president must be countersigned by the prime minister. Unless and until the prime minister countersigns, no order or decision of the president will assume legal status. I am presenting to you what is given in the Constitution. Now, consider this yourself: Does the president, who enjoys the status of the father of the nation and constitutional head of the country, deserve such treatment. Is not the division of powers absurd, meaningless, or ridiculous? The question is not one of the honor and prestige of a person, but of the survival and stability of the country. What is the use of a figurehead president who can see his country passing through a serious crisis but cannot take any action?

Now, think about this yourself: Should a president be left in this ridiculous situation, or should he have some powers? The substance of what we [words indistinct] during the past 8 years and learned during the past 37 years of our history is that, although a prime minister should be the sovereign head of the government, the president should not be so powerless that he may become totally ineffective. This is the second aspect that is being amended.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these amendments are not the inventions of my mind, nor will my colleagues and I gain anything personally from them. In our opinion, these amendments are very, very essential to the integrity and better future of the country, and to arrive at them we had to think coolly for a long time and seek the advice of several prominent constitutional experts, political scholars, noted legal experts, religious leaders, and patriotic politicians. While effecting these amendments, we have also kept in mind that a constitution is not an ordinary document. This is a basic charter, under which the people and the president of the country live together in peace. The constitution symbolizes the sovereignty of the state.

There are three means to express this sovereignty or power, that is to define the jurisdiction and mutual relationship between the legislature, executive, and the judiciary. It lays down the procedure for guaranteeing and protecting the rights of the citizens of the country. The constitution is the basic (?charter) or axis around which the state and its various departments revolve. Therefore, such a basic and sacred document should not be touched unnecessarily. This is the reason that we did not touch the basic structure of the 1973 Constitution while making amendments. It was parliamentary before, and it is still parliamentary. But you might have heard that no document — except divine scriptures — can be the last word on any subject. And about the constitution, it is popularly said that it exists for human beings; human beings do not exist for it. Another constitutional expert thinks that the constitution is an experiment, just as life itself is an experiment. That is, the constitution is definitely a basic document, but there is scope for changes in it according to changing circumstances. And should this be done otherwise, a frozen constitution cannot help for very long.

With a view to meeting the requirements of these changing circumstances and by taking advantage of the experience gained during the past 8 years, we should effect some amendments in the 1973 Constitution. The amendments will be made, but the elected assembly — which is holding its first session this very month — will have complete freedom to reject, nullify, or terminate these amendments according to the procedure enshrined in the Constitution if it thinks that they are unnecessary and useless. These amendments have been announced through a presidential

order today. The name of the presidential order is the revival of the 1973 Constitution Order 1985. Although the order has been named as the revival of the 1973 Constitution Order — and God willing, this Constitution is being revived after necessary amendments — it is not being restored in total. It will be restored in stages, and in accordance with it the martial law will be lifted in stages as well. It is not only my expectation but endeavor as well that this should not take a long time. You will read the details of the presidential order being issued today. I shall discuss in brief today the salient points and the effects of these amendments on the 1973 Constitution. The 1973 Constitution consists of 12 parts, and every part has many chapters, and every chapter is based on several articles. Following the Preamble of the 1973 Constitution, there is a sentence in Article 2 of the first part of the Constitution which says, "Islam will be the state religion of Pakistan." [sentence in quotation marks in English]

In my view, this sentence begs consideration as well as correction, as Islam is not a religion but a faith. Second, it is not the faith of the state, but a complete code of life for all of us. And in my opinion, our entire Constitution, our system of government, all our laws, and our ways of living ought to be in line with this faith. But, in spite of making any amendment to this article, we are leaving it to the discretion of the elected assembly and are saying only that the resolution of objectives should be made a part of the 1973 Constitution through the addition of an article. This is the first amendment or addition that has been made in this Constitution, so that all of us should seek guidance from it. I feel that the making of this resolution as a part of the Constitution neither makes the Constitution fully Islamic in nature nor paves the way for an Islamic system of government. But I understand that, in view of the Constitutional and political circumstances through which the country is now passing, it is all the more a blessing that it is a step toward the destination of the realization of objectives if not a destination in itself. And in my opinion, it is an important step. I hope that the elected representatives of the people will take further steps in this respect and will provide the country a complete constitutional, political, and social system.

The second part of the 1973 Constitution is based on the principles of basic rights and policies of the state. Its Article 17 relates to the freedom of association, which includes a person's right to form or become a member of a political party. Whatever may be my personal opinion regarding political parties, I do not want to forcibly impose my personal views on anybody. I am also fully aware that here, in spite of so much love and affinity with Islam, there is fear psychosis in our (?minds) regarding the existence and functioning of political parties. Along with this, I also know that, not only in Pakistan but wherever the Islamic government is discussed, politics will definitely be mentioned. In the present era, political parties cannot always be overlooked. And in our country, even religious parties have formed political parties according to their aims. Who will pull them out of this garb?

As you must have heard in my repeated statements, I have left this work to the discretion of the elected representatives and the National Assembly members to make any decision in the interests of the people and the country. They should consider whether political parties should or should not be. If not, then what will be the means to run the system of government? If yes, then in what situation, in what number, and under what conditions? Should the present parties continue to exist in their present form? Do you again want to be under the grip of your respective parties? If cliques exist in the assembly, then how can it be controlled? And there are other, similar questions. These are the things that are to be discussed in the assembly and a decision made there. We have left this article in its original form and have not made any amendment to it.

Articles 41 to 49 in Chapter 1 of Part 3 of the Constitution deal with the president of Pakistan. A few amendments have been made in these articles. I would like to make some introductory remarks before commenting on these amendments. In the parliamentary system, the head of government, as a custodian of the nation and country's unity and honor, has the right not only to respect and esteem, but he also enjoys appropriate powers. In the parliamentary system, although executive affairs are mostly under the jurisdiction of the prime minister, affairs of state and the government's function are carried out in the name or on (?behalf) of the president. Whenever some executive powers are given to the president, it is also kept in mind that the president will exercise all these powers on the advice of the prime minister. It is included in the prime minister's duties that he should keep the president apprised of the internal situation and foreign affairs. That is why this presidential right has been included in the Constitution as an amendment.

The current president should be recognized as the head of state for another 5 years by making the results of the 1984 referendum part of the Constitution, with his term of office beginning on 23 March when the joint session of parliament will begin.

By considering it necessary that in the indirect election of the president, not only should the National Assembly and Senate participate, but the provincial assemblies should also participate, an amendment has been made to expand the electoral college for future presidential elections.

This amendment has been made by considering the inclusion of provinces as a source of strength for the center. Through this amendment, some changes will be brought about in the procedure for the election of the president that will be clarified in the Constitution. This clarification will also be made by the elected National Assembly.

The president will act on the advice of the cabinet, prime minister, or concerned ministers in the discharge of his duties. The president will have the power that whenever a bill is sent to him, he must either ratify it within 45 days or return it to parliament for review. And if parliament, after a review, returns the same bill to the president, then it will be imperative for him to ratify it. After being signed by the president, the bill will assume legal status.

Other than this, the president has also been given some discretionary powers under which the president's important role will be the appointment of the prime minister and while appointing the prime minister, the president will keep in mind the fact that only persons who enjoy the confidence of the two assemblies should be nominated. As the new house has been elected on a nonparty basis, the prime minister has been given 2 months' time to seek the confidence of the house.

The president will have the power to hold referendum on any important issue at his own discretion or at the advice of the prime minister. For this, the legislation will be drafted by the new assembly. The president will appoint the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee and chiefs of three branches of the Armed Forces. Appointments of [provincial] governors will also come under the powers of the president. The president, on the advice of the prime minister, will appoint cabinet ministers and ministers of state. Similarly, he will appoint advisers on the advice of the prime minister.

A subsection has been added to Article 243 under which the president will be the supreme commander of the Pakistani Armed Forces. This does not mean that Ziaul Haq has become a field marshal. This is a constitutional procedure. The administration of the Pakistani Armed Forces will be the duty of the government. The head of state has been given this honor because it is a general practice for the head of state to be chief of the armed forces.

Chapter 2 of Part 3 of the Constitution relates to parliament. We have not made any changes in procedures and powers of parliament. As usual, it will have two houses — a National Assembly and Senate. Separately, these two houses will be called by these names. But jointly they will be called Majlis-i-Shoora or parliament.

And now a question is being raised in some quarters whether the new parliament will be sovereign or not. My answer is that the powers given to the National Assembly in the 1973 Constitution are fully intact. We are even giving more importance to these elected institutions than before. This is evident from the fact that we have increased the number of members of the two houses — which you already know — and have endeavored to make the upper house or Senate more impressive and effective than before.

The second amendment about the Senate is that its term has been extended from 4 to 6 years. The concept of this institution is that it should never cease to exist. "It is not dissoluble. It must perpetuate, must continue." [sentences in quotation marks in English] Its term has been extended from 4 years to 6 years. Two-third of its members will relinquish their seats every 2 years, and new senators will be elected in their places. This process will continue.

The president is empowered to dissolve the assembly at the advice of the prime minister or at his own discretion. There are a number of conditions for the dissolution of the assembly. It is not the case that the president or the prime minister will get up in the morning and say that he intends to dissolve the assembly. This is not so. In view of the amendment, whenever the extreme step of dissolving the assembly is taken, then it will be the foremost duty of the president to hold elections soon, that is within 100 days after the dissolution. The president will form an interim government for the intervening period.

The next chapter of the third part of the Constitution relates to the appointment of the prime minister. I have already briefly discussed the appointment of the prime minister while describing the powers of the president. I want to add only that as usual, the prime minister will be the head of the cabinet, chief executive of the country and the head of the government. He will be fully empowered to run the affairs of the country. The prime minister and his cabinet will be answerable to the National Assembly and the prime minister will continue in office as long as he enjoys the confidence of the National Assembly, and in case of losing this confidence he will relinquish his office. A no-confidence motion against the prime minister can be introduced with the support of at least 20 members of the assembly in any session of the assembly except the budget session. Its details are given in the concerned article.

Part 4 of the Constitution deals with the governors and provincial assemblies of the four provinces. We have amended only the part stating that a provincial governor will enjoy the same powers as are enjoyed by the president at the federal level. Therefore, the governor will appoint a member as the chief minister of the province who enjoys the confidence of the provincial assembly, but before the appointment, the governor will have to seek approval from the president. Details about this have also been given in the concerned article.

In the Part 10 of the Constitution dealing with state of emergency, only an article has been added under which a National Security Council will be set up. The name of the council has startled many people, and in their point of view there is no need for it at all. It is not an institution above the constitution or assembly.

What I want to present before you today is that extensive debate took place on the creation of the National Security Council, and during the debate the people were led to doubts and apprehensions about what this institution is all about. I want to tell you that there is nothing to fear concerning it. This is not an institution that is above the constitution or National Assembly, because it cannot be above the constitution or National Assembly.

Doubts and apprehensions being spread about its objectives and jurisdiction are totally baseless. Some people say that it will be a supreme body that can veto every decision of the assembly and government. Some are spreading rumors that Ziaul Haq is thinking of prolonging and consolidating his rule through this institution, while yet another irresponsible quarter says that it is in fact being made a means for Armed Forces' intervention in state affairs. All this is wrong, false, baseless, condemnable, and reprehensible. There is absolutely no truth in it. The National Security Council will have no such powers through which it can interfere in the work of the assembly or government. Its duty will only be that, if the national situation starts deteriorating, it can recommend to the government the enforcement of a state of emergency under Article 232 or discuss any other affairs which the president, on recommendation of the prime minister, hands it.

In these matters, too, the National Security Council's work will be to recommend. It will be up to the government to accept it or not. The 11-member council will be comprised of the president, chairman of the senate, prime minister, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee, chiefs of staff of three branches of the Armed Forces, and chief ministers of four provinces.

Zia Explains Amendments

BK050352 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq says that the constitutional amendments he announced have created a balance between the powers of president and prime minister. In a special interview with chief editors of national dailies and senior newsmen in Rawalpindi, he said that the constitutional amendments have given the president some additional powers to make him more effective. Under these amendments the president's powers have been enhanced without decreasing the prime ministers's powers. The president made it clear that the prime minister will continue to be the chief executive and the head of government. The prime minister and the cabinet will be accountable to the legislature, not to the president. He said the powers would, in a real sense, rest with the prime minister and the president would work on advice of the prime minister. Similar provisions exist in constitutions of several countries, including India.

Asked about provisions for the dissolution of the National Assembly, the president said the assembly can be dissolved in two situations. First, if the prime minister recommends this and expresses his opinion that elections must be held ahead of schedule. In this situation, it will be binding on the president to accept the prime minister's recommendation. The second situation is if the government, prime minister and National Assembly lose the people's confidence and the president feels that new elections are necessary. Under such a situation, the president, exercising his powers, can dissolve the National Assembly. However, such occasions are rare.

In answer to a question, the president said even though the people have given him powers to amend the constitution, the parliament members will have full right to amend it as well. He emphasized that a two-thirds majority of the National Assembly and a simple majority of the provincial assemblies and the Senate will be essential for any amendment. If any province does not approve an amendment, then that amendment will be rejected. He said the addition of this provision and the participation of provinces in the electoral college for a new president's election are made to give people opportunities to fully participate in national affairs.

Answering another question, he said if the president had powers, then he could have dissolved the assembly in 1977 after which the government would have been dismissed and fresh elections held. In response to another question, the president said when the 1973 Constitution is restored, the provisional constitution order would then become ineffective. He said through the amendments powers of courts have been increased.

Answering another question, the president said courts can be approached on basic rights, and under the constitutional amendments powers of the courts have been enhanced.

Asked about the nature of leadership in the new National Assembly, the president said the elected persons are neither from the extreme right nor the extreme left. Pakistanis have made it clear that they support running the government on moderate moorings and Islamic lines.

About the future prime minister, the president said he wants a prime minister who is fully capable of working on this post and is polite. He said he strongly believes that the country should have an Islamic system of consultations. He expressed the hope that the new National Assembly will give attention to this important matter.

Asked about fulfilling people's expectations of him as expressed in the referendum, the president said since the same expectations are expressed in the elections he hopes that the new government will keep this in mind. We are accountable to the people.

As for the establishment of the National Security Council, the president said this body will not be above the parliament or cabinet. The body will comprise seven elected members and four representatives of the Armed Forces and it can give recommendations to the president and the prime minister in case of an extreme state of emergency.

Answering another question, he said a new institution of Islamic ideology will be set up before 23 March and it will have 50 members as envisaged in the Constitution.

Ziaul Haq Describes Elections as 'Great Success'

BK050227 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has described the elections as a great success and the people have endorsed the government's policies with their massive turnout. He said the turnout of voters showed a remarkable enthusiasm of the people toward democracy. He said many young and bright new faces have been elected as a result of these elections.

In an interview to the *TIME* magazine of America, the president said the martial law would be lifted when he is satisfied that the new government has stabilized. He said there is an urgency that we must eventually Islamize society but in an acceptable manner. He also emphasized that internal cohesion within Pakistan will continue to be his priority.

The president emphasized that the president and the prime minister must work in harmony. This is one change we have made to make the constitution work. He said the prime minister must enjoy all the powers of the chief executive.

We have restored the prestige and powers of the president which he previously lacked. If this balance is maintained, it will be a very healthy change for the nation.

About the National Security Council, the president said it would not be a super body. It would not only advise the president on serious matters such as a declaration of emergency.

On Pakistan's nuclear capabilities, the president said Pakistan has neither a capacity nor the intention of exploding a nuclear device.

BANGLADESH

Preparations Under Way for 21 Mar Referendum

BK041314 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1230 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] In accordance with Referendum Order 1985, the Election Commission has appointed all district administrators as returning officers of their respective areas for holding the referendum. The returning officers are empowered to appoint deputy returning officers from among the police station area-level officers of subdistricts to assist them in their work. The Election Commission has issued detailed guidelines for setting up polling booths, appointment of presiding officers, deputy presiding officers and polling officers, and making necessary arrangements for ballot boxes for holding the referendum on 21 March.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has started procuring necessary materials for holding the referendum.

INDIA

Foreign Secretary Bhandari Meets Sri Lankan Envoy

BK041615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] The Sri Lanka high commissioner in New Delhi, Mr Bernard Tilakaratna, has had a meeting with the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari. Mr Tilakaratna is just back in the capital after consultations with his government for a solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

Delhi Cites Zia on Improvement of Relations

BK051013 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] President Zia has admitted that the recent constitutional amendments will enhance his powers. Addressing Pakistani editors in Rawalpindi, General Zia said but this will not reduce the powers of the prime minister. He added that there would be a balance of power between the president and the prime minister.

About relations with India, Gen Zia expressed the hope that the dialogue for normalizing the relations would be resumed soon. He said that he has every reason to believe that relations between Islamabad and New Delhi will improve in the coming months.

Opposition Denounces Pakistani Amendments

BK041611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] In Pakistan, several prominent opposition leaders have criticized the constitutional amendments announced by President Ziaul Haq. The chief of the Tehrik-e Istiqlal, retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, has said that the amendments are nothing but a modified version of martial law rule. Another leader, Nasrullah Khan, who is now under house arrest, said that presidential form of government has been introduced in the guise of a parliamentary system.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court of Pakistan has rejected a petition challenging the powers of the president to amend the 1973 Constitution. The petition was filed by the chairman of the Pakistan Solidarity Front, Mr Malik Navi Rakhmat.

Delhi: Airliner Hijacker Hanged in Karachi

BK050902 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Pakistan, (Nasir Baluch) has been hanged in a Karachi jail for his involvement in the hijacking of a Pakistani airliner in 1981. He was sentenced to death by a military court for abetting hijacking of the plane to Kabul and Damascus by a few members of Al-Zulfiqar.

SRI LANKA

Thatcher To Visit Sri Lanka 11-13 April

BK051045 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will make an official visit to Sri Lanka from 11 to 13 April this year during which she will attend the inauguration ceremony for the commissioning of the Victoria Dam project coming under the accelerated Mahaweli development program. The Victoria Dam project is a gift from the Government of the United Kingdom.

The British prime minister and her husband, Denis Thatcher, are visiting Sri Lanka on an invitation by the president and Mr Jayewardene. During the visit, Prime Minister Thatcher will have talks with the Sri Lankan president and she is also due to address parliament.

Government Rules Out Negotiations With Tamils

HK050722 Hong Kong AFP in English 0647 GMT 5 Mar 85

[By Neville De Silva]

[Text] Colombo, March 5 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Government has ruled out negotiations on a political solution to the Tamil problem, unless Tamil leaders drop calls for a separate state, a highly placed government source said today. Talks with separatist leaders or with India could not begin until the leaders abandoned the violent struggle to set up an independent Tamil state in the north and east of the country, the source told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

At least 617 people have been killed since November by official count, as separatists among the 2.5 million Tamil community have stepped up their attacks. The Hindu Tamils allege they are discriminated against by the some 13 million Sinhalas, who are mainly Buddhist. Press reports here have said Sri Lanka was ready to start fresh negotiations with India on the Tamil issue. But the source said the question of new discussions with India

did not arise, because there would be no political dialogue at all with the Tamils, direct or indirect, until they renounced separatism.

"The ethnic question is an internal problem of Sri Lanka and it will stay that way," the source added. New Delhi could help find a political solution later if it cracked down on separatist training camps and operational bases which Colombo charges have been set up the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, the source said. India has denied they exist and the issue has become a thorn in bilateral relations, analysts say. Tamil Nadu is the homeland of India's Tamils, many of whom feel sympathy for the separatists.

Following Indian charges of killing and harrassment of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy, Colombo proposed joint patrolling of the Palk Strait dividing the two nations. President Junius Jayewardene said this would curb separatists ferrying men and arms to the troubled north, and also prevent Tamils from fleeing to Tamil Nadu. India has expressed concern at the influx. The rejection of this proposal by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi made government leaders here question New Delhi's assertions that it wanted a peaceful solution to the Tamil problem, the source said.

The government's refusal to negotiate with the Tamils until they abandon separatism was similar to the Indian Government's refusal to negotiate with Sikh separatists, the source said.

Meanwhile National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali today dismissed as "absolute fiction" reports quoting Tamil Nadu officials as saying some 93,000 refugees had fled to India since riots in Sri Lanka in July 1983, which heightened tension between Tamils and Sinhalas. Mr Athulathmudali put the figure at 42,000 until February 4 this year, since when he said 12,000 others had joined them.

Khomeyni Receives Kashani, Other officials

LD041323 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] Emami Kashani, a jurisconsult member of the Council of Guardians, Yasrebi, the Friday prayer leader of Kashan, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Borqe'i, the imam's representative in Dubayy, were this morning separately received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Velayati Cited on Attack on S. Lebanon Mosque

LD041739 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 4 IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran today strongly condemned Monday's blast at a religious center in Ma'rakah village in Southern Lebanon by the Zionist forces and expressed confidence that "the Muslim fighters in southern Lebanon will not leave these actions unanswered."

According to reports, the explosion at a mosque in Ma'rakah village, east of Tyre Monday morning, caused heavy civilian casualties. At least 12 people have been martyred and 65 others wounded so far in this inhuman attack.

Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced today that these "savage actions" by the Zionist regime only revealed its complete defeat in invading Lebanon. "It shows that for this regime (Israel) no way has been left but to massacre the oppressed and defencelsss people," Velayati said quoted by the public relations office of the Foreign Ministry today.

"It is clear that the rulers of the regime occupying Jerusalem, feeling inability against the all-out resistance and defence of the Muslim people of south Lebanon...by resorting to such ugly acts are trying to compensate for their lost prestige."

"The government of the Islamic Republic strongly condemns this act and it is clear for us that the Muslim fighters in the south will definitely not leave unanswered such moves," the foreign minister was quoted as saying.

Friday Imams Issue Statement

LD051234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Following the bomb explosion at Ma'rakah Mosque in south Lebanon by the Zionists, the Central Office of Qom Friday Imams issued a statement. It says: Once again the innocent Muslims of south Lebanon have been massacred by the aggressor Zionists, copies of the Koran have been burned and dozens of Muslims from Ma'rakah village have been buried under rubble. Unfortunately the heads of many Islamic countries and international circles have witnessed the ruthless massacre of Muslims in south Lebanon, but have condoned so much cruelty with their silence and support.

Such explosions are clear proof of the despondency and disgraceful defeat of the Zionists and their bully masters in Lebanon. In line with its aggressive and cruel nature, Israel has resorted to new, savage terrorist activities and wishes to repeat what it did in Dayr Yasin, Kafr Qasim, Sabra, and Shatila, by wrecking houses and mosques, surrounding cities, by large-scale arrests, and by killing the people in south Lebanon; it vainly thinks that it can dishearten the Muslim crusaders from their relentless struggle.

Today, the superpowers of the East and the West have reached an agreement to oppose Islam. On that basis, America has remained silent in the face of the ruthless massacre of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, and the Soviet Union has kept quiet about the massacre of the innocent people of south Lebanon. The present comings and goings of the lackeys of world arrogance in the region and their overt and covert contacts with world satans — America in particular — show another deep and dangerous conspiracy against Islam and the Muslims. The recent political moves in the region show that a conspiracy is being hatched which is more dangerous than Camp David. By dragging Israel's neighbors to sit round the table and talk and recognize Israel they are trying to prepare the ground for an all-round struggle against the influence and expansion of the Islamic Revolution.

Under these sensitive conditions the Muslim world needs a remarkable and popular movement arising from the Islamic nations. Following the guidance of Ayatollah ol-Ozma Montazeri, the Central Office of Friday Imams asks Friday imams all over the world, especially Islamic countries, to expose the recent plots hatched by American and its lackeys, especially in the Middle East, in their Friday prayer sermons and in gatherings, to prepare the ground for the movement of the nations, and by mobilizing all Muslims to prevent the implementation of such dangerous plots.

Iraq Attacks Ahvaz Gas Station, Bushehr Plant

Ahvaz Attack Kills 11

LD041620 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Pr., March 4, IRNA — Two Iraqi warplanes attacked a gasoline station near the steel plant outside Ahvaz Monday [4 March] causing heavy casualties.

At least 11 people were martyred and 30 others wounded in the attack while relief workers and the people are continuing to search for more victims.

The attack took place at 1:30 p.m. (10:00 GMT) with the enemy planes furing a total of six rockets, destroying the station and damaging the number 1,2 and 3 units at the steel plant.

In its evening news broadcast, Iran's Channel One station showed the scene of the attack where a large crowd of people had gathered and were shouting angry slogans against the Iraqi regime. One of the people wounded in the attack told the television reporter that he expected the Islamic Republic to retaliate against the attack.

Last month, President 'Ali Khamene'i had warned that Iranian forces would open fire against Iraqi cities if Iraq did not stop

repeated attacks on civilian targets in Iran, which had escalated in January and early last month. Since then, instances of Iraqi shelling as well as aerial attacks on Iranian cities had dropped considerably.

Iran and Iraq agreed not to attack civilian targets following an appeal by the United Nations secretary general last June. Iraq has frequently violated the agreement.

Bushehr Atomic Plant Hit

LD041653 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] Bushehr, Bushehr Pr., March 4, IRNA — An Exocet missile was fired at the concrete structure of the incomplete atomic plant at Bushehr Monday [4 March], causing some damage but no casualties Monday evening.

The missile was fired by an Iraqi warplane, in the second attack against the plant in nearly 20 days. Two Iraqi planes also attacked a gasoline station near Ahvaz today, martyring 11 people and injuring 30 others.

The head of Iran's atomic energy organisation, Reza Amrollahi, condemned the attack and called on the International Atomic Energy Agency to "deal firmly" against the Iraqi regime for this action.

"A need is felt for the international organisations to confront Iraq's anti-peace actions now more than in the past," Amrollahi told IRNA.

An attack by Iraqi planes against the installation on Feb. 14 left one person martyred and injured several others. No damage was inflicted against the plant.

Plan To Bomb Basra Announced

GF050446 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] A source close to the Joint Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran said in an exclusive interview with an IRNA correspondent that following the bombing of the city of Ahvaz at 1230 yesterday which martyred some workers at the Ahvaz pipe factory, we are giving prior warning to the residents of Basra that we will shell preplanned targets within the city of Basra. Hence the residents of Basra are given 12 hours to evacuate the city so that they can avoid possible injuries.

The same source added: The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will issue a communique on this matter, the text of which will be conveyed to our dear listeners.

Communique on Attacks

LD041814 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces today confirmed an Iraqi air raid on Ahvaz steel plant Monday and said the attack caused some losses. According to Joint Staff Communique Number 2022 issued Monday, Iraqi shelling had earlier damaged five houses and the minaret of the city mosque in the port of Abadan.

Meanwhile in the northwestern fronts and the border area of Ilam and Bakhtaran Provinces, Iranian forces kept Iraqi troop movements under surveillance while locating their artillery guns and bombarding them.

The communique said that in the Mehran area, in the west, the Muslim combatants' fire forced one enemy patrol to flee leaving a number of dead and wounded behind. Iran's Muslin defenders paralyzed the engineering activity of the Ba'thist forces in the Qasr-e Shirin, Sumar, and Halaleh areas. In the southern fronts, Iraqi positions came under Iranian fire and the movement of their troops were kept under surveillance by Iranian troops.

The heaviest confrontations in the front were in the Nahr-Anbar, Kushk, and Hoseyniyeh regions. Gendarmerie forces stationed in the southern fronts bombarded Iraqi positions and silenced their fire while killing and wounding a number of their soldiers in the vicinity of the Arvand River, the communique concluded.

Communique on Retaliation

LD050630 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — Iran Tuesday morning announced it will open fire on the city of Basra in Iraq at 20:00 hours local time (16:30 GMT), calling on the inhabitants of the city to evacuate there.

The announcement, appeared in the 2023th [as received] communique of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces, was made following Iran's repeated warnings to embark on retaliatory measures vis-a-vis Iraq's attacks against Iranian residential areas and one day after Iraqi aerial aggression against residential quarters in Ahvaz, martyring 12 civilians and injuring 30 others.

The communique noted that Iraq had already stationed its artillery behind border barriers. Therefore, following previous warnings of President 'Ali Khamene'i, who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council, the Islamic Republic of Iran will embark on retaliatory measures. It stressed that the attack to be launched against Basra tonight, was to retaliate crimes committed so far by the Iraqi rulers.

In February 1984, for the first time since the intensification of Iraqi aggression against Iranian cities, Iran launched retaliatory attacks with prior warnings.

This measure, forced the Iraqi regime to halt its aggression and reach the agreement of June 12th with the United Nations according to which Baghdad promised not to attack Iranian residential quarters.

Meanwhile, Iran also agreed to cease its attacks on Iraqi civilian areas if Iraq stopped to do so.

Velayati Sends Message to UN Secretary General

LD051444 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Tuesday following Iraq's brutal attacks upon the city of Ahvaz in southern Iran which resulted in the martyrdom and wounding of tens of innocent people.

The message said that "as you have been informed in our previous notes and according to numerous reports of the delegation dispatched by you to investigate Iraqi attacks on non-military and civilian areas of Iran, it is undoubtedly clear that Iraq is firmly committed to continuing its attacks on these areas in violation of the U.N. sponsored June 12 agreement.

"In two previous notes sent to you the Islamic Republic stressed that before retaliating in kind it would give international organisations an opportunity to exert diplomatic pressure to prevent further Iraqi attacks, and make it comply with the June 12 agreement on halting civil areas attacks."

Unfortunately, said the message, this measure of the Islamic Republic of Iran led to no results and the Iraqi regime has not learned a lesson, which is not surprising. In the meantime, international bodies took no practical measure to ensure that the June 12 agreement was respected and this emboldened the Iraqi regime to continue its aggressions, the message added.

The indiscriminate Iraqi attacks on non-military areas took on a new dimension on Monday when two Iraqi fighter planes attacked the city of Ahvaz, in Khuzestan Province, resulting in martyrdom of 11 civilians and injury of another 25, it said.

In another part of the message, Velayati pointed out that because the Iraqi regime has ignored all international appeals to refrain from attacking civilian areas despite the Islamic Republic of Iran's observance of the June 12 agreement Iran is left with no alternative but to retaliate from now on, because it deems this the only way to halt Iraqi attacks. Even so, the message added in such a measure all humanitarian aspects will be taken into consideration and the inhabitants of Iraqi cities will be informed of Iran's intent to retaliate, so that they would be able to evacuate the cities and be immune. Undoubtedly the consequences of such action will rest with the Iraqi regime.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Iraqi, Israeli Attacks

LD050935 Tehran IRNA in English 0818 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tuesday morning condemned two identical crimes committed Monday by the Zionists in Lebanon, and by the Iraqis in Iran.

Speaking at Majlis open session, Rafsanajni noted that the Iraqis bombed the city of Ahvaz and martyred and injured a great number of innocent civilians while a bomb blast in a religious center in Ma'rakah village in southern Lebanon by the Zionists took the lives of many other Muslim people.

Both the crimes, he added, were in contradiction with the claims of the two criminals. The Baghdad regime claimed to be seeking peace while it repeated such crimes everyday and the Zionists accused Lebanese people of being terrorists while committed worst types of terrorism themselves, Rafsanjani said. However, he stressed Iran will take revenge of the Iraqi regime and will prove this. Such hostile attitudes would further reveal the true nature of the enemy, especially at a time when it was after a propaganda fuss at the U.N. Security Council on Monday, the Majlis speaker said.

He criticised silence of the world mass media vis-a-vis crimes committed by the Zionists in Lebanon and added that this indifferent attitude would provoke oppressed people to uprise and resort to extremist movements.

Once again denouncing the Zionist bomb explosion of the religious center in south Lebanon, Rafsanjani called on all justice-seeking people to take effective steps for the liberation of Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims. He also called on Arab nations not to remain indifferent vis-a-vis the silence of Arab and Islamic world, especially rich Arab countries whose money and oil is at present at the service of the Zionist regime.

Ahvaz Radio Denounces Attack

GF050726 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 0645 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] This is not the first time that the Saddamists have made the civilians in our cities and villages the targets of their satanic fury. Every time humiliating defeats and heavy blows are inflicted on the blindhearted ones, they try to create terror and fear in a terrible manner among the people but are defeated and humiliated again more than before.

Following the dastardly and unsuccessful efforts of the Saddamists on the southern and western fronts of the country which were their only chances to salvage the lost morale of the decrepit forces, and after the massive disgrace that their baseless unsuccessful propaganda suffered, this was the last arrow in the empty quiver of the Saddamists' armed forces.

Our God-seeking combatants inflicted such a blow on them and such a stain on their hearts that they could not placate themselves except in this manner. The barbaric and bestial air attack on innocent civilians has borne no fruit other than exposing fascist aims and aspirations of the infidel Ba'thists.

The cries of "God is great" and the renewing of the Islamic nation's pledge at the site of the devastation by the barbaric bombing of the Saddamists and the massive presence of old and young men and women of our nation is a sign of the defeat of such a dastardly act perpetrated by this Zionist enemy.

The clenched fist of Muslims is shaken against the enemy. The cries of "God is great" and "There is but one God and His name is Allah" resound in the world. Saddam and his mentors move closer to imminent annihiliation.

Tehran Arabic Comments on Basra Warning

GF051252 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1120 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly and loudly warned: He who forewarns is excused. However, it appears that the Ba'thist rulers of Baghdad have decided to persist in their wrong ways, madness, and violation of all international and humane norms. Despite the agreement reached as a result of the efforts of the UN secretary general on 18 June 1983 not to shell towns or civilian areas in both countries, the butchers of Baghdad have repeatedly violated the agreement and shelled safe Iranian towns, thus disregarding all humanitarian customs and international conventions.

On 4 March the butchers of Baghdad shelled Ahvaz and Bushehr, two cities that lie hundreds of kilometers from the battlefields where the soldiers of Islam and the mercenaries of Iraq's Ba'thist regime are facing each other. At 1300 [0930 GMT] on 4 March Ahvaz was the target of an Iraqi air raid in which 11 citizens were martyred and more than 20 others were wounded. Bushehr, which lies on the Persian Gulf, was also the target of Iraqi rocket shelling and the walls of the nuclear power plant near the city were damaged. The air raid launched by the butchers of Baghdad on Ahvaz and the rocket bombardment of Bushehr constitute a new turning point in the mad war that has been waged by the tyrant of Iraq, Saddam al-Tikriti, for more than 4 1/2 years. The tyrant Saddam knows fully well that Article 407 of the International Atomic Energy Agency prohibits attacks on nuclear installations that are used for civilian and peaceful purposes. Saddam knows very well that Article 56 of the 1970 Geneva protocol also prohibits attacks on nuclear installations that are used for peaceful purposes. Nevertheless, the tyrant Saddam ordered his pilots to attack the Iranian nuclear plant in Bushehr — a plant on which work is currently taking place and which will be used for the generation of electricity.

As for Ahvaz, which was the target of a savage air attack on 4 March, one can say that by launching such an attack the tyrant Saddam is seeking to transfer the current fighting between the Islamic forces and his mercenaries to the cities and residential areas of both Iran and Iraq, in an attempt to wipe out the greatest number of both Iranians and Iraqis, and particularly Iraqis who are suffering a great deal from Saddam's bloody actions and repression.

The butchers of Baghdad have got from their imposed war on the Islamic Republic of Iran only defeat, disappointment, and shame in addition to losing 50,000 of their troops into the hands of the Islamic forces as prisoners and seeing thousands of their forces killed. The butchers of Baghdad are trying nowadays by all means to impose a de facto situation on the Islamic Republic of Iran by transferring the war to the cities and to the residential areas in the two countries. That is why the air raid that was launched yesterday on the city of Ahvaz and the rocket shelling of Bushehr which resulted in many civilians wounded or killed constitutes a grave turning point with regard to the aggressive war that is imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This situation has forced the Islamic leadership, after being patient for a long time, to adopt a firm decision to halt the aggression and the insane practices of Saddam's butchers. That is why the Armed Forces Joint Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a communique today in which it announced that it was compelled to act in kind and to retaliate to the aggression of the Baghdad butchers. The Islamic military command repeatedly has warned that it would retaliate.

Today, it decisively and finally warned the residents of Basra and told them to leave the city which at 2000 [1630 GMT] will be relentlessly subjected to the fire of the Islamic forces in retaliation for the martyrdom of innocent civilians as a result of the rocket shelling and the air raid on the cities of Ahvaz and Bushehr.

The military command decided in its communique that was issued today to teach the Ba'thist butchers of Baghdad a lesson they will never forget. The command has not disregarded the innocent Iraqi citizens; it has told them to depart Basra and they have several hours to save their lives. The appointment which the Iranian military command has with the Ba'thist Baghdad butchers will be at 2000 today in the city of Basra. This will be in retaliation for the shelling of the two cities of Ahvaz and Bushehr; he who forewarns is excused.

Mourning Declared in Khuzestan for Ahvaz Attack

GF050616 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] In order to honor the martyrs of the attack by the Iraqi airplanes on the Ahvaz pipe factory, public mourning has been declared throughout Khuzestan Province.

Iraqi POW Exchange Offer Termed 'Impossible'

LD051121 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 5 IRNA — The Iraqi regime, by proposing the exchange of all Iranian POW's with Iraqi prisoners of war, has noother objective but to create a propaganda fuss, the War Information Headquarters said Tuesday. The announcement said that the Baghdad regime was fully aware of the fact that fulfillment of such a proposal during the war time was absolutely impossible according to international regulations.

It stressed that the Geneva Convention on POW's, approved internationally, has not referred to the overall exchange of prisoners of war during the war time — a fact that the Iraqi regime is fully aware of. But, the announcement added, since the Baghdad regime faced another international discredibility following the release of a report after a U.N. fact-finding delegation's visit to both Iranian and Iraqi POW camps, which refuted Iraq's charges against Iran on a recent riot at the Gorgan Iraqi POW camp in Iran, it has no alternative but to bring up new subjects.

The proposal was aimed at covering up revious Iraqi claims which were never approved by other sources, the announcement noted. It further stressed that at present the fate of 20,000 Iranians missing in action was unknown and the Baghdad regime was

reluctant to inform the world opinion on their fate, it was not possible for the Islamic Republic of Iran to study the possibility of an overall exchange of Iraqi POW's with a limited number of Iranian prisoners of war disregarding the fate of a large number of other Iranians kidnapped by Iraq.

The announcement concluded by saying that if the Iraqi regime was really sincere, it would have clarified the condition of Iranian MIA's and civilian POW's, instead of creating a propaganda ballyhoo, and present a list of their names to international societies and then would propose the exchange program.

Kuwaiti Government Deports More Iranians
GF041540 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Kuwaiti Government has expelled 10 more Muslim Iranian workers during the past few days. This group arrived in Bushehr and Ganaveh by motorboats through the Persian Gulf and was settled in a refugee camp in Bushehr.

It is worth noting that some of the expelled were imprisoned from 5 to 15 days in Kuwaiti jails before their deportation. Their belongings were also confiscated by that country's government.

Delegation Departs for Bangkok Education Forum
LD051058 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — A high-ranking Iranian delegation left Tehran for Bangkok, Thailand, to attend the international conference of education ministers and experts in planning for Asia and Oceania, affiliated to the UNESCO. The Iranian delegation is headed by Mohammad 'Ali Najafi former minister of higher education.